Schorr Speculates On Jailing

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Alarmed by suggestions that the House should take away CBS newsman Daniel Schorr's press credentials for his role in leaking the secret CIA report into print, the Standing Committee of Correspondents which supervises the congressional daily press galleries has said accreditation should be a matter solely for the committee in accordance with professional standards.

The five committee members, in a letter to Speaker Carl Albert, also endorsed the concept that a reporter should not be punished by Congress for maintaining confidentiality of his sources.

The board of governors of the National Press Club also has expressed concern about the House ethics committee's investigation of the leak, saying it appeared to be a potential witchhunt aimed at Schorr.

Research by the staff of the House press gallery has turned up five instances where House or Senate expelled a reporter for conduct considered improper and one case where the Senate cited a reporter for contempt for publishing a treaty being considered in closed session.

The latest case occurred in 1911, when a reporter was expelled from the House press gallery for trying to pick a fight with a member on the House floor.